

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 00557 011402Z

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1622

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FOR OPIC FROM GRAHAM WILLIAMS

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: EFIN, HA

SUBJECT: OPIC - AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL PROGRAM IN HAITI

QUOTE 1. OFFICERS OF OPIC AND THE U.S. AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL AND OFFICIALS OF GOH JUST COMPLETED THREE DAYS OF WHAT GOH CALLED THE OPIC-AGRIBUSINESS MISSION. PURPOSE OF MISSION WAS TO DISCUSS JOINT VENTURE PROJECTS WITH GOH AND TO AGREE ON NEXT STEPS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE VARIOUS PARTIES.

2. THE MEETINGS, SOLICITED BY OPIC AND COUNCIL, BUT ON INVITATION OF GOH, WERE CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO DIRECTION OF HAITIAN PRESIDENT. MEETING PARTICIPANTS WERE OPIC PRESIDENT MARSHALL MAYS (FIRST TWO DAYS), GRAHAM WILLIAMS, OPIC MANAGER FOR AGRIBUSINESS, AND KENNETH MUELLER, AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL PRESIDENT. GOH GROUP WAS CHAIRED BY MINISTER EMMANUEL BROS AND INCLUDED AGMIN JAURES LEVEQUE, COMMUNIST ANTOINIO ANDRE AND FRANCOIS MURAT, PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR GENERAL, NATIONAL BANK OF HAITI.

3. AT FIRST MEETING ROLE OF OPIC WITHIN U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FRAMEWORK WAS REVIEWED. ALSO, MUELLER OUTLINED ROLE OF COUNCIL AS NON-PROFIT VEHICLE TO ACCELERATE U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND JOINT VENTURE INVESTMENT IN LDC FOOD SECTOR DEVELOPMENT. U.S. PARTY DESCRIBED OPIC-COUNCIL AGRIBUSINESS PROGRAMMING AND STATUS OF PROGRAM IN HAITI.

4. AT GOH REQUEST, THERE FOLLOWED WORKING LEVEL TASK FORCES TO REVIEW EACH OF THE FOUR PROJECTS. AT TWO-HOUR ROUNDUP MEETING
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PAGE 02 PORT A 00557 011402Z

WITH MINISTERS, NEXT STEPS FOR RESPECTIVE PARTIES WERE AGREED UPON.

5. MAYS AND MUELLER, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR HEYWARD ISHAM, CALLED ON HAITIAN PRESIDENT. DURING THAT MEETING U.S. SIDE REVIEWED OBJECTIVES AND STATUS OF PROGRAM TO WHICH PRESIDENT RESPONDED WITH REITERATION OF HIS SUPPORT FOR FOOD SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL AND THIS PROGRAM IN PARTICULAR. END QUOTE.

6. COMMENT. THE VISIT OF OPIC PRESIDENT MAYS AND AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL PRESIDENT MUELLER HELPED CLARIFY THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF OPIC PROGRAMS IN HAITI AND AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL'S ROLE AS OPIC'S CHOSEN INSTRUMENT. THE STATUS OF THE FOUR AGRIBUSINESS PROJECTS IS MUCH CLEARER. HAITIAN AND AMERICAN SOURCES ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF THE CATTLE AND CUCUMBER PROJECTS. THE ESSENTIAL OIL PROJECT GENERATED INTEREST AND CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY. THE INDUSTRIAL FOOD PROJECT APPEARS TO BE A NON-STARTER. ISHAM

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